

Nebraska School Meals Update

February 2022

Supply Chain Assistance Funds

The USDA issued funds to support school food authorities (SFAs) with the purchase of food items for use in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Nebraska received nearly \$7.5 million to distribute to SFAs that wish to accept funds to help alleviate supply chain and cost challenges faced this school year.

The funds must be used to purchase minimally or unprocessed food items like milk, fruits, and vegetables served in the school breakfast and/or lunch program(s). Plan to attend an informational webinar hosted by the NDE Nutrition Services on Wednesday, February 23rd at 2:30 p.m. (CST). Each SFA will have the option to accept its eligible funding amount, and acceptance or denial of funds will be collected in a survey sent by email to all SFAs at the conclusion of the February 23rd webinar. The funds will be distributed in early to mid-March. See Policy Memo [SP 03-2022](#) for additional information.

Reimbursement Rate Increase

Every January, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) reimbursement rates for breakfast, lunch and snack increase. School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to provide no-cost meals to all enrolled students during SY2021-22 receive the SFSP reimbursement rates for the breakfast and lunch meals they serve.

The increase for 2022 is significant and will help address the increased food and supply costs SFAs. View the updated SFSP reimbursement rates on the bottom of the NDE Nutrition Services Reimbursement Rates webpage: [Reimbursement Rates](#).

National School Breakfast Week: March 7 - 11, 2022

Celebrate National School Breakfast Week with ideas and resources available from the [School Nutrition Association](#) (SNA). Nebraska school food service professionals have been relentless in their effort to ensure school students statewide are well-fed and ready to learn each school day; they served nearly 9.5 million breakfast meals during school year 2020-21!



Let's continue to support our school nutrition professionals as well as the growth of the School Breakfast Program by getting school students and leaders involved in promoting and supporting school breakfast during School Breakfast Week held from **March 7th through March 11th**. Check out [SNA's toolkit](#) filled with ideas and resources.



Register today for Friday, February 4th: Nebraska Regional Food Systems Summit

The [Nebraska Local Food & Farm Summit](#) is a dynamic collaboration combining Nebraska Sustainable Ag Society's Healthy Farms Conference, the Nebraska Regional Food Systems Summit, and the Nebraska Specialty Crops Conference & Trade Show into 2 full days of educational sessions, farmer forums, roundtable conversations, and keynotes.

[Registration is still OPEN](#) for the virtual conference that will be held on Friday, February 4. Schools should use registration code **FriExtCOMP2022** to register for no-cost.

An afternoon session will feature Harvest of the Month as a gateway to connect schools and early care education with local foods, education, and hands-on activities. Presenters will include Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln and Green School Farms, a team that is collaborating to pilot Harvest of the Month in Lincoln early care programs and with Afterschool groups; and Burwell Public Schools, a Nebraska Farm to School Institute team, who leverages Harvest of the Month to source more local foods to incorporate into their school meals program. In January, the school meals program even featured local cabbage in "runza casserole", harvested in a Nebraska greenhouse by

Burwell students. Hear their stories on Friday! The NDE and Extension will facilitate the session and provide brief farm to school updates. [Register](#) before Friday and join this farm to school focused session from 2:10 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Bringing the Farm to School PRODUCER Training, March 3



Spread the word... Calling all farmers & agricultural producers interested in learning about expanding their business to reach schools!

The NDE, with partners Nebraska Extension, Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska, Center for Rural Affairs, and No More Empty Pots, are hosting Nebraska's first Bringing the Farm to School: Local Producer Training.

WHEN: Thursday, March 3, check-in opens at 8:30 a.m.; training is 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WHERE: Douglas-Sarpy Counties Extension Office (Omaha).

WHAT: Producers will learn from local experts about accessing school markets, growing products for schools, and more.

HOW: Stipends and mileage reimbursements will be provided. Future trainings will be offered across the state. Learn more

<http://go.unl.edu/farmtoschool>.

Growing School Gardens Summit, Denver, CO



Nebraska farm to school partners will be presenting at the Growing School Gardens Summit in Denver, CO which will be held April 22-25.

On Day One of the Summit, the Center for Rural Affairs, Umo^{ho} Nation Public School, the NDE, and the USDA MPRO will offer *Greenhouse to Cafeteria – Interactive Workshop & Umo^{ho} Nation Example*.

Registration is still open for this event. Learn more at

<https://schoolgardensummit.org/>.

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(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

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